



For immediate release: May 30, 2017

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“Common Goods” Art Workshop and History Café in Harvard Square on Thursday, June 15

CAMBRIDGE, MA: On June 15, the Cambridge Historical Society and Cambridge Arts Council present “Common Goods,” a free public art workshop, from 6-7pm on the Cambridge Common; followed by a ticketed “History Café” talk from 7:15-8:30pm at The Hong Kong Restaurant, 1238 Mass. Ave, Cambridge MA 02138.

As part of the Cambridge Arts Council’s public art series “Common Exchange,” artists **Allison Smith** and **Judith Leeman** will conduct a free public art performance and workshop on the Cambridge Common. The workshop will use a Windsor chair built for two, custom made especially for this event; to explore how common American craft traditions can be employed in public spaces to start discussions which have the potential to enrich our “commons.”

Following the workshop, the Cambridge Historical Society will host a ticketed “History Café” at The Hong Kong Restaurant; where workshop artists Allison Smith and Judith Leeman, craft historian **Ezra Shales**, and museum consultant **Laura Roberts** will lead a group discussion about how public and personal art which engages with common craft making traditions can shed light on our shared present, and help “make” a future “commons” we want to see.

For more info and to purchase History Café tickets:

<https://historycafecommongoods.eventbrite.com>

A full description of “Common Exchange” performances and exhibits is found here:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/arts/publicart/commonexchange>

Allison Smith is an internationally-recognized and widely-exhibited artist. She currently teaches and lives in the San Francisco Bay area. Her artistic practice investigates the cultural phenomenon of historical reenactment, or Living History, using it as a means of addressing the relationship between American history, social activism, craft, and identity.

Judith Leeman is an exhibiting artist, with an active studio, research, and teaching practice. She is Associate Professor of Fine Arts at Massachusetts College of Art and Design.



Ezra Shales is an art historian, curator, and artist whose publications, and exhibitions explore the intersection of design, craft, and art in contemporary culture. A professor at Massachusetts College

of Art and Design, he is the author of *Made in Newark: Cultivating Industrial Arts and Civic Identity in the Progressive Era* (2010), which analyzes art as an expression of civic ideals.

Laura Roberts, principal of Roberts Consulting, is an adviser to innumerable cultural institutions and museums. She has been teaching graduate students in arts and nonprofit management since 1991. The Cambridge Historical Society benefits from her expertise on its Programs Committee.

About the “What Does Cambridge Make?” Series

Throughout 2017, all of the Society’s events connect to the annual theme of “What Does Cambridge Make?” The events have proven to be popular with Society members and non-members alike; a recent History Café event, “Candy, Soap, or Beer? Working Life in The Port” sold out within a week.

Upcoming Cambridge Historical Society events:

June 20, 4-6pm: Open Archives at the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, 159 Brattle Street

History Café Series:

July 13: Clay, Bricks, Dump, Park: A Walking Tour & Talk about North Cambridge. 131 Sherman Street, Cambridge, MA 02140

September 12: Whose Kendall?: Walking Tour & Talk. Cambridge Brewing Company, 1 Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA 02139

September 27: Apothecary Now: A look inside the medicine cabinet. Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, 300 Third Street, Cambridge MA 02142

House Tours at Hooper-Lee-Nichols House:

June 25, July 30, August 27, and September 24; 12-1 PM, 159 Brattle Street

Information on all Society events can be found at www.cambridgehistory.org.



About The Cambridge Historical Society

From the American Revolution to the biotech revolution, the history of Cambridge, Massachusetts is unlike that of any other city. A city this vibrant and vital must preserve its past and learn from it to make the Cambridge of today the best it can be. Founded in 1905, the Cambridge Historical Society serves our community through inclusive programming and stewardship of its historic collections and the property entrusted to it. The Society helps those who live and work in Cambridge explore and understand how and why we got here and use that perspective to understand contemporary issues.

We enable our community to better recognize, understand, and appreciate the threads that connect yesterday, today, and tomorrow and connect us to each other and our community.